Indo-Nepal Task Force on Flood

2050. DR. T. SUBBARAMII REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Nepal had agreed to speed up efforts on flood control and management;

(b) if so, whether two countries had agreed to set up a task force to draw strategies to combat problem;

(c) whether India and Nepal share 243 rivers and propose to give a push to long pending hydro power projects and form a joint team of experts on outstanding issues;

(d) if so, to what extent this task force has agreed to take steps to check the floods in both Nepal and India; and

(e) what are the strategies adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) (b), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Joint Committee of India & Nepal has been constituted to work out short-term strategy for identifying the vulnerable areas along various rivers and identify the steps to mitigate the devastation caused by the floods. The Committee has been asked to submit its report in 3 months, suggesting necessary remedial measures.

(c) The major rivers which are common between India & Nepal are Sharda, Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Sapta Kosi, Kankai and Adhwara Group of rivers. In addition there are a number of small rivers and streams. In order to give push to the hydro power projects, the Joint Group of Experts has been constituted to look into the preparation of Detailed Project Report of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Joint Team of Experts has already been constituted to look into the preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme. There is also a Joint Committee on Water Resources at the level of Secretaries to look into the overall cooperation between India and Nepal in the water resources sector.

Privatisation of Water Supply

2051. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to privatise water supply and management looking at the problems that India is facing with regard to water;